

WEST SIDE INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW

VOL. I, No. 16

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1938

ADAR 17, 5698

DEDICATION DINNER - DANCE

Mr. Max E. Sanders, Chairman of the Committee in charge, reports that he will shortly announce the appointment of a committee to have complete charge of our Dedication Dinner-Dance, on May first, at the Waldorf-Astoria.

It is his purpose to secure at least a half a dozen stage, screen and radio stars to entertain our guests on that evening. Every indication points to an outstanding social event.

The tickets are \$12.50 per person and you are urged to send in your requests for tickets now so that you may dispose of them before your friends make any other commitments for May first.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

An unusually lively membership meeting took place at the Synagogue last Monday evening following the Men's Bible Class. The occasion was enlivened by the return of our inimitable Harry Appel.

The President of the Synagogue, Mr. Lester Udell, made a short address of welcome to our Rabbi in whose honor the meeting was assembled. The Rabbi then told us how happy he was to get back to this, his spiritual home, although he enjoyed every minute of his stay down South.

Several of the members were called on to say a few words, including Mr. David Gluck who promised to be more regular in his attendance in spite of the fact that he has moved out of the borough.

As predicted by the Editor in last week's issue, our Four Horsemen of Restlessness have gotten full steam up and have harnessed the latent energy of the members. Harry who was hibernating for a while in Chicago, the windy city, came back with a choice collection of literature. Now that he has gone literary, he will make authors out of all of us.

Harry brought back with him a new story. He is convinced that Hitler is on the way out. His friends in Chicago say that when we got rid of Pharaoh, we got matzoths. When we dispensed with Haman, we got Hamentaschen. They are now concerned with the kind of pastry we shall get to commemorate Hitler's disappearance.

(Continued on Page 4)



Light Candles Friday Evening 5:20 P. M.

Weekly Portion: KI TISA

Friday Evening Service Service5:15 P.M.

Saturday Morning Services.....9:00 A.M.

Children's Service10:00 A.M.

Rabbi Hurwitz class in Talmud.....3:45 P.M.

Young People's Mincha Service.....5:00 P.M.

Daily Services:

Mornings6:45, 7:30, 8:00

Afternoons5:25

Between afternoon and evening services a class in Mishnayis is led by Rabbi Goldstein.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

A fine attendance greeted the Women's League meeting of February 7th, 1938. In the absence of the president, Mrs. Joseph Anderson, who is in California, Mrs. A. H. Cohen presided.

The Barn Dance and Supper, mentioned in our previous "Review", has been postponed indefinitely. In its place an afternoon Bridge and Tea is to be run. A door prize has been graciously donated by Mrs. Max Frank.

Mrs. Bertha Steuer, absent from meetings the past few weeks, due to illness, was present and accorded a hearty welcome. A delightful social hour followed the meeting, at which Mesdames Langer, David and Frank were the hostesses.

MAZEL-TOV

We congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Israel Stein on the marriage of their daughter Eva to Mr. Hyman Blotnick of South Africa. May their matrimonial trek be a long and happy one.

SOUVENIR YEAR BOOK

In connection with our Dedication Dinner-Dance, to be held on May first, 1938, at the Waldorf-Astoria, we are planning to have a really unique Souvenir Year Book, which will contain descriptions of our various activities and advertisements of many outstanding business firms.

All of our members and friends can render real service by obtaining advertisements for this Souvenir Year Book, to help make it a financial as well as literary success.

Mr. David H. Ullman, the capable Chairman of the Committee in charge of this Souvenir Year Book, requests that you concentrate your efforts upon this phase without delay.

Contract forms for advertisements may be had at the office.

RECREATION GROUP

Our members and friends will be pleased to know that the recently organized recreation group in our building is now operating at full force. It is open to the children of our Talmud Torah, on the afternoons when they have no classes in Hebrew, and to any other children of the neighborhood.

Arts and Crafts, Clay Modeling, Painting and Book-Making are taught by the teachers in charge. The children are taken to the parks on nice days, where outdoor activities are conducted.

Any of our friends wishing to co-operate, may do so by donating toys, games, or any equipment suitable for children. Good use of these can be made by this group.

MEN'S BIBLE CLASS

The regular session of the Men's Bible Class, conducted by our Rabbi, will be held on Monday evening at 8:30 P. M.

The increasing attendance, indicates the interest that has been aroused by this class.

You will find it a very pleasant and instructive way of spending Monday evening.



WEST SIDE INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW

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VOL I, No. 16 February 18, 1938

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SIGNS OF SPRING AND SEDER NIGHTS

Winter, tough customer that he is, nevertheless is surely on the way out. True enough, we shall have plenty of mean weather, slush and snow but, in a few short weeks, our feathered friends will wing their way to these parts, buds will begin to burst and the sun will again shine. With the arrival of Spring comes Passover and, with it, those glorious Seder Nights when, in the company of friends and relatives, we review our disordered past and take what little comfort we can from our lot in this unhappy world.

Because of recent, historical developments, the Seder has taken on a new significance. Whereas, formerly, it meant a gathering of intimates - mainly a family celebration - to-day, with the fierce persecution that stalks the race like some predatory animal, the family has grown to include all the sufferers. Under the lash of the common persecutor, artificial lines of demarcation among German-Jew, Polish-Jew, Galician-Jew

and, arch-aristocrat, Spanish-Portuguese Jew, have been evaporating. To-day, we are all "unwanted Jews."

As such, we suffer to-gether. Hence, why not "Seder" to-gether? The movement has grown. In many parts of the country, we find a tendency towards communal Seders, where large groups of the Jewish family can gather and observe the traditional ceremonies with all the affection of intimacy and with full realization of the common lot of all Jewry.

Communal Seders also provide mother and the girls with the same comforts that have been, for ages past, allotted to father and the boys. After all, in spite of its detractors, religion and religious observances have kept pace with the times. Mother has graduated from the status of kitchen slave although Nazi philosophy would send her back for a post-graduate course, with its "Kinder, Kirsche und Küche". So why should not mother be spared the work, the excitement, the preparation-you know how it is - of seeing that the meal is just so, that the new maid knows what to do next, and that darling little Lawrence Stanley (Leib Zalman) shall not ruin mother's best tablecloth by upsetting the wine glass.

Let us encourage communal Seders. With a Rabbi presiding, a Cantor giving us the correct melody, a few after-Seder remarks appropriate to the occasion, delivered by one who knows what he is talking about (a non-nudnick), a communal Seder can be a source of joy and inspiration and is worthy of encouragement.

West Side Institutional Synagogue

announces that

Communal Seders

will be celebrated
at its building
on

**Friday and Saturday
Evenings, April 15th & 16th**

Rabbi Goldstein will officiate.

Cantor Yavneh will lead
the singing.

Make your reservations at
once as the seating capacity
is limited.

"AS
R'CHASH
SEES
IT"



By Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein

EXPEDIENCY

The greatest enemy of the higher life is expediency. Expediency is as an umbrella, a temporary shelter, but not as a roof, a permanent protection. The greatest problem in our varied interests in life is so to live as not to sell our principle for expediency. Expedients are for the hour, but principles last for the ages. Our Rabbis tell us that the average man neglects the things which make for immortality and busies himself with the life of the moment. The dread of making enemies, the desire to please both sides, the cringing to the powerful, are the greatest stumbling blocks to the soul's progress.

What we need today is more men and women who are not for sale, who will not sell principle for principal, and who will not be shackled in their judgment and decision by the shekel.

Expediency expresses itself through conduct which is only passive and negative. Our conception of life should be twofold; first to abstain or refrain from wrong, and second, to undertake and do things which are right, as we read in the Psalms, "Withdraw from evil and do good," and as the late Theodore Roosevelt put it, "Be active in the performance of virtue no less, than firm, in the refusal to do aught that is vicious or degraded."

There are all too few religious and moral champions because expediency has seized us and taken us into the slough of complacency. We have become morally flabby and indifferent. We prefer the path of silence. "Silence," as one of our old ethical teacher admonishes us, "is good for the body," but not for the soul.

Let us be on our guard every time expediency enters into our minds when we are about to make a decision and test its correctness with the question: "Is this the way of God?" Let me conclude in the words of the sage who said: "Do God's Will as if it were thy will, and nullify thy will before His Will."

INTERESTING STAMPS

By JOSEPH E. DAVIDSON

The Stamp—Commemorating Stamp of Guatemala issued in 1937 bearing the portrait of Franklin D. Roosevelt.

XVI: The President and His Hobby

SCENE: Executive office of the President: Washington, D. C., morning of March 6, 1933. Mr. Roosevelt is at his desk speaking on the telephone. Flowers, beautifully arranged, bedeck the room. Miss X, Secretary to the President's secretary, enters with sheaves of papers. The President glances up, nods to her with a friendly smile of recognition and continues with the call which is one of the many that he had been receiving from all parts of the world wishing him success in his new duties. He finally concludes the conversation, hangs up the receiver and the following takes place.

PRESIDENT: Well, Miss X, what have you there, any more invitations for Fourth of July orations? (the President chuckles while awaiting the answer).

MISS X: No, Mr. President, these are letters from foreign countries which Mr. M. opened and which he thought you might want to answer personally.

PRESIDENT: Letters from foreign countries indeed! Where are the envelopes?

MISS X: (innocently) Oh, the envelopes! Mr. M. evidently threw them in the waste basket. (With mock seriousness.)

PRESIDENT: Well now, that is a criminal waste. Imagine one throwing away perfectly good stamps. (Upon noticing the disturbed look upon the girl's face, he surmises that the girl did not get the point. He continues:) Miss X, did you ever save postage stamps?

MISS X: I do not know what you mean by saving postage stamps, Mr. President. I buy them in small quantities and use them as the occasion arises.

PRESIDENT: (Laughs heartily). I thought so. You know Miss, my hobby is collecting stamps from all over the world. You can do me a favor. When Mr. M. separates the letters from their respective envelopes be kind enough to get the envelopes before he throws them into the waste basket. Put them aside for me, and when you get enough of them bring them to me. Will you do that for me Miss.

MISS X: Gladly Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Thank you, and by the way do not say anything to Mr. M. about this.

MISS X: I shan't.
(makes her Exit.)

CONSERVATISM
RADICALISM

RELIGION

by Simeon H. F. Goldstein

In the struggle for control of economic policy, both conservatives and radicals claim religion as an ally.

In modern times radical movements generally have opposed religion, but only recently have radicals begun to ask support for their views on religious grounds. On the other hand, religion was used to support conservatism in the Middle Ages and is so used at present, although conservatism represented at that time something quite different from what it does to-day.

I.

In the novel, "The Brothers Ashkenazi", a rabbi cleverly answers the charge that his followers are radical, by suggesting that all Jews arrested for radical activity be examined to find out whether they wear Tsitsis.

While there are exceptional cases, it is a matter of common knowledge that radicalism of the socialist and communist variety, is generally associated with an absence of, and very frequently, antagonism to religion. Karl Marx called religion the opiate of the masses. The "Yom Kippur Balls" on the lower East Side are still remembered by our older people. Thus, it has been claimed that, by following those who preach radicalism in economics, one is endorsing irreligious doctrines and attitudes or, at the very least, exposing himself to such doctrines and attitudes.

However, those who claim to be both religious and radical say that while they accept the economic doctrines of their leaders, they do not follow those leaders blindly and readily reject their irreligious or anti-religious ideas.

They cite the story about Rabbi Meir, one of the greatest Rabbis of the Talmud, in defense of this attitude. Rabbi Meir used to go to one Elisha ben Abuyah, who had left the Jewish religion, but whose knowledge and opinions Rabbi Meir valued, for instruction on difficult points of Jewish Law. The other Rabbis had a parable to the effect that Rabbi Meir found a pomegranate, ate the edible parts but discarded the skin. The irreligious Elisha ben Abuyah was the pomegranate, the wisdom which Rabbi Meir obtained from him was compared to the edible part of the fruit while the skin which he discarded represented the teacher's irreligion. Jews who are radical, but wish to be religious, feel they are eating merely the edible part of the fruit and discarding

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OUR DIRECTOR



DAVID H. GLUCK, E. B.*

For more than twenty years, the name of David H. Gluck has been associated, in the minds of our Board Members, with loyal devotion to the Synagogue, Judaism and any religious, educational or philanthropic movement encouraged by Rabbi Goldstein.

Although he is now a resident of Brooklyn, that does not, in the least, interfere with his efforts in behalf of the West Side Institutional Synagogue.

Holding high executive position with the largest chain store organization in the world, a golf and tennis addict, Dave is also a very pious Jew and sets an example to those who feel piety interferes with business or pleasure.

*Eligible Bachelor

GETTING PERSONAL

by HANK EPSTEIN



Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Harold Kaplan on their third anniversary. This is a week late but you know Aunt Pearl that I wouldn't forget you for the world. (you too Harold)... We understand that Joan Horwitz who is spending the winter down South is doing her bit to help the Council embark on its new mission. We hope that her mother and dad as well as herself are having a swell time and will return in the best of health... Mr. and Mrs. Hyman Schwartz sail for South America on an eighteen-day cruise. Our own Miss Leona Kessler, who at one time was one of us, has been appointed Directress of activities in our domain. You can rest assured Leona, that you will have our heartiest cooperation... The Reus Society dance last Saturday night was a huge success both financially and socially. Mr. Quinn our all around man gave his expert opinion when he said, "The crowd at this dance was the finest that we ever had at any dance..." A. M. Davis, one of our Directors and his brother Meyer attended the Men's Club meeting and were very enthusiastic... For the first time in many meetings, Mrs. Annie R. Morris was not present. We hope all is well with her... Mrs. Sam Silver sent a telegram from Hot Springs, Arkansas, thanking us for sending her the Review. Always at your service... Mr. David H. Ullman went away on a short vacation. He will be back with us soon to resume his duties as Chairman of the Souvenir Year Book... Belle Baker, famous stage and radio star is vacationing at Miami Beach, Florida. Your correspondent suggests that Mr. Joe Settel, now at Miami Beach, call upon her and secure her services for our Dedication Dinner-Dance to be held at the Waldorf Astoria on May 1st... We are still short a few hundred dollars to reach our goal for the Yeshiva Chest... Maybe the Board could have another meeting at Mr. G. Richard Rubenstein's home.

Conservatism, Radicalism, Religion

(Continued from Page 3)

the skin, representing the anti-religious views of many radicals.

It has also been claimed that much of the radical opposition to religion is merely a matter of self-defense. Religious groups have often opposed radicalism and therefore some radicals have felt that in order to win over religious people they must first separate them from their religious attachments. They claim that if religious groups were to adopt a neutral or friendly attitude towards radicalism radical opposition to religion would cease.

Socialism and communism have been criticized on the ground that the proposals which they wish to put into effect would directly violate religious commandments. Most religions — and among them Orthodox Judaism — condemn the taking of private property from its owner as robbery. While the attitude of the Socialists towards compensation for property which they want the government to confiscate is somewhat indefinite, the Communists have made it clear that if they had their way, compensation would be out of the question. This attitude of the Communists has been defended by them as far as

Jewish Law is concerned, on the ground that Jewish Law permits a sovereign to take private property for public use without compensation (Babba Kamma 60b). Those who make this defense claim that a Communist state is entitled to be considered a sovereign state as much as any other state.

(to be concluded in the next issue)

Membership Meeting

(Continued from Page 1)

Our Four Horsemen were represented by only two of them, Lester and Harry. It seems Joe Settel is down in Miami trying to date up Belle Baker for our Dedication Dinner. It should not be a hard job for two reasons. First, Joe is very attractive to the ladies and who can say no to him? Secondly, Miss Baker is an old and devoted friend of our Synagogue. The Fourth Horseman, Max Sanders was out selling tickets for the dinner and getting ads, so his absence, though regretted, was pardonable.

CONDOLENCES

Our deep sympathies are extended to Mrs. Adolph Meirowitz upon the loss of her dear father. We pray that she may receive the balm of God's healing comfort.

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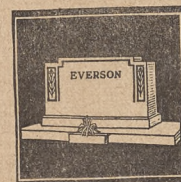
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